

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An image output apparatus, comprising:

an image reading section 3 for reading an image on a document and converting the image into image data;

an image storing section 72 for storing the image data read by the image reading section;

an image output section for outputting the image corresponding to the document on the basis of the image data stored in the image storing section;

an index sheet issue instruction accepting section for accepting an instruction to issue an index sheet,

an index sheet output control circuit for causing the image output section to output an index sheet in response to the acceptance of the instruction to issue the index sheet by the index sheet issue instruction accepting section, the index sheet output by the image output section carrying index information;

an index recognizing circuit for image-recognizing, when the index sheet is read by the image reading section, the index information on the sheet;

an index information storing section 91 arranged to store an index registration table;

✓ an index registering circuit for registering, in response to image recognition by the index recognizing circuit, the index information recognized by the index recognizing circuit and corresponding storage area designation information for designating a storage area in said image storing section 72 (92), associated with each other in the index registration table, the index registering circuit generating the storage area designation

information upon the image recognition of the index information by the image recognizing circuit; and

a circuit for storing image data representing a document, which has been read by the image reading section subsequently to the index sheet, in a storage area 92 of the image storing section 72 designated by storage area designation information ADR 1, 2, 3, etc. associated with the index information, the index sheet having been output by the image output section under control of the index sheet output control circuit.

Claim 2 (original): The image output apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

a circuit for overwriting, when the index information recognized by said index recognizing circuit has already been registered by said index registering circuit, an image data representing a document which has been read by said image reading section subsequently to the index sheet on the storage area, in said image storing section which is to be designated by the storage area designation information associated with the index information.

Claim 3 (original): The image output apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

an index image output instruction accepting section for accepting an index image output instruction for outputting a document image corresponding to an index information carried on an index sheet, and

an index image output control circuit for reading out, when said index recognizing circuit recognizes the index information in a state where the index image output instruction is accepted by the index image output instruction accepting section, the image data, in said image storing section, to be designated by the storage area designation information

associated with the recognized index information, and causing the image output section to output the image corresponding to the image data.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): The image output apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the image output section outputs and records an image of a document on a recording sheet, and

the index image output control circuit causes the image output section to discharge recording sheets to different positions for image data of respective documents.